

Expert Report of Agustín Irizarry-Rivera

PROMESA Title III - No. 17 BK 3283-LTS and

PROMESA Title III - No. 17 BK 4780-LTS

United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico

Submitted April 28, 2023

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1 **I. Introduction**

2 The following organizations: Comité Diálogo Ambiental, Inc., El Puente de Williamsburg,
3 Inc.- Enlace de Acción Climática, Comité Yabucoeño Pro-Calidad de Vida, Inc., Alianza
4 Comunitaria Ambientalista del Sureste, Inc., Sierra Club Inc. and its Puerto Rico Chapter,
5 Mayagüezanos por la Salud y el Ambiente, Inc., Coalición de Organizaciones Anti
6 Incineración, Inc., and Amigos del Río Guaynabo, Inc., has asked that I review the Plan of
7 Adjustment of the Debt (“PAD”) submitted by the Financial Oversight and Management
8 Board (FOMB) for the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA)¹.

9

10 I have been asked to assess the effect of the proposed PAD on Puerto Rico’s public policy
11 that promotes the rapid adoption of distributed renewable energy, a resilient electricity
12 supply for the people of Puerto Rico, and energy justice.

13

14 The proposed PAD contradicts this public policy and would hamper the achievement of
15 Puerto Rico’s energy independence, energy affordability and energy resilience goals. In
16 Puerto Rico distributed renewables are growing while utility scale renewables are not. The
17 proposed PAD fails to analyze the publicly available data that shows this and simply
18 ignores this fact.

19

20 The fixed component of the proposed “legacy charge” is designed to tax the adoption of
21 residential solar energy and it penalizes net metering adoption of solar photovoltaic rooftop
22 generation.

¹ Modified Disclosure Statement for First Amended Title III Plan of Adjustment of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, dated February 21, 2023.

23 The proposed PAD is based on flawed assumptions on the current rate of adoption of
24 distributed renewable generation, specifically residential rooftop solar photovoltaic systems
25 including energy storage (batteries), resulting in overestimating future energy sales and
26 rendering the proposed PAD unable to repay the uninsured debt it seeks to pay.

27

28 My analysis shows that the current Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) of residential rooftop
29 solar photovoltaic systems, including batteries, is already less than the cost of electricity
30 from the electric grid. These distributed energy systems are currently equal to the electric
31 grid in cost and superior in terms of reliability and resiliency. Lack of resiliency and
32 reliability from the electricity supplied by the electric grid further drives the adoption of
33 rooftop solar PV systems and is not included in the LCOE calculation.

34

35 In short, the proposed PAD fails to recognize, or willfully ignores, the rapid technological
36 change and current accelerated adoption of distributed renewable energy. The proposed
37 legacy charge will increase the cost of electricity from the electric grid, but will not
38 increase the reliability of this service, thus accelerating the adoption of distributed
39 renewables and probably increasing grid defection, or partial grid defection. This will result
40 in reduced energy sales and render the proposed PAD useless since to increase revenues
41 further increases in the legacy charge will be needed creating a vicious cycle.

42

43 Finally, and for completeness, I include results from a case study in residential electric
44 resiliency thru rooftop solar photovoltaic generation plus batteries.

45 **My conclusions are:**

46 Conclusion 1 – The proposed PAD fails to analyze, or willfully ignores, current rate of
47 adoption of distributed energy.

48

49 Conclusion 2 – Renewable energy adoption policy is harmed by taxing the only renewable
50 energy sector growing for the sake of paying an uninsured debt.

51

52 Conclusion 3 – Bondholders are experiencing a technological change they did not foresee.
53 Failure to foresee technological change while investing is not cause to change the bonds
54 guarantee whether the bondholders' claims are secured or not. Nor is it cause to tax the new
55 technology as the proposed PAD does.

56

57 Conclusion 4 – Based on Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) calculations the proposed
58 “legacy charge” is designed to tax the adoption of residential solar energy and it penalizes
59 net metering adoption of solar photovoltaic rooftop generation.

60

61 Conclusion 5 – The LCOE of residential rooftop solar photovoltaic systems, including
62 batteries and using equipment of good warranty and LiFePO4 batteries, already cost less than
63 the cost of electricity from the grid after applying the proposed legacy charge.

64

65 Conclusion 6 - Contrary to what is assumed in Exhibit P of the proposed PAD significant
66 grid defection could become a reality in Puerto Rico if the proposed legacy charge is
67 implemented, thus rendering the proposed PAD useless.

68 Conclusion 7 – Rooftop solar photovoltaic systems with batteries are currently less costly
69 than unreliable electricity from the electric grid. This lack of reliability from the electricity
70 supplied by the electric grid will further drive the adoption of rooftop solar PV systems with
71 storage.

72

73 Conclusion 8 - The proposed legacy charge will increase the cost of electricity from the
74 electric grid, but will not increase the reliability of this service, thus accelerating the
75 adoption of distributed renewables and probably increasing grid defection, or partial grid
76 defection.

77

78 Conclusion 9 - Residents of Puerto Rico require a cost effective and resilient alternative to
79 generate electricity and the proposed PAD is an obstacle to achieve this much needed goal.

80

81 A description of my qualifications and compensation is available in Section XIII of this
82 Report.

83

84 **II. Current rate of adoption of net metering solar rooftop photovoltaic systems
85 and batteries in Puerto Rico vs utility scale projects**

86

87 The Puerto Rico Energy Bureau (PREB) has a public docket named “Performance of the
88 Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority” (docket number NEPR-MI-2019-0007)² where
89 LUMA Energy is required to report a number of metrics. The most recent report, dated

² The docket is available at https://energia.pr.gov/numero_orden/nepr-mi-2019-0007/.

90 April 20, 2023, provides data on the incremental installed distributed generation systems
91 capacity. This refers to the number of clients with solar photovoltaic systems (mostly
92 rooftop systems) and wind turbines that register for net metering. If the client does not
93 register into the net metering program the installation will not appear in this statistic.
94 As of April 2023, only 1 client has a wind turbine system, all other clients use solar
95 photovoltaic generation. Figure 1 shows total number of net metering clients with solar
96 photovoltaic generation (bars) and the total generation capacity of these systems in MW.

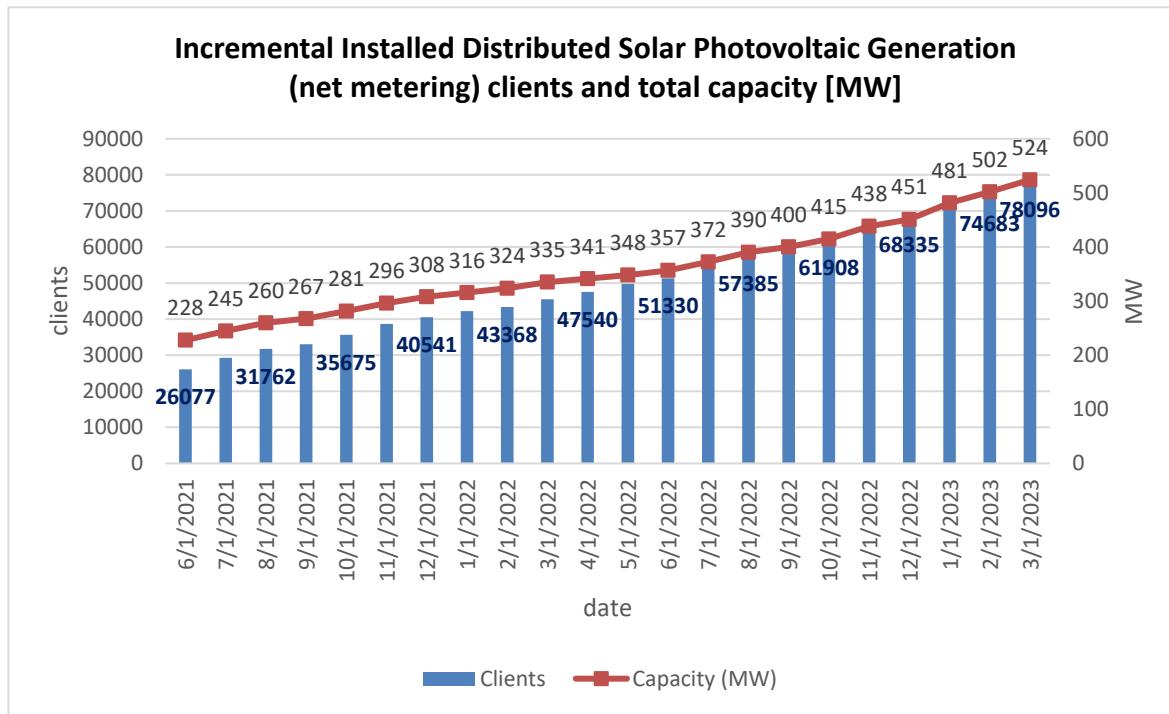


Figure 1. Incremental installed distributed solar photovoltaic generation (registered for net metering) clients and total generation capacity in MW.

97 Figure 1. shows the increase in solar photovoltaic generation, registered for net metering,
98 since LUMA Energy assumed control of the operation of transmission and distribution.
99 Note that on June 1st 2021, LUMA reported 26,077 registered net metering solar PV
100 systems. As of March 1st, 2023, 21 months later, LUMA is reporting 78,096 registered net

101 metering clients. In 21 months, the number of net metering clients has tripled. Further
102 notice that **the number of net metering clients is doubling every 15 months.**
103
104 The incremental installed capacity shows a similar trend. On June 1st 2021, LUMA reported
105 228 MW of installed net metering solar PV capacity. As of March 1st, 2023, 21 months
106 later, LUMA is reporting 524 MW of installed net metering solar PV capacity. In 21
107 months, the installed net metering solar PV capacity more than doubled. It increased by a
108 factor of 2.3. Further notice that **the installed capacity of net metering solar PV systems**
109 **is doubling every year and a half (doubling every 18 to 19 months).**

110
111 LUMA did not include distributed storage in the April 20, 2023 report to PREB. The most
112 recent energy storage report is dated April 3, 2023 and only includes distributed energy
113 storage data from June 2021 thru December 2022. This is summarized in Figure 2.

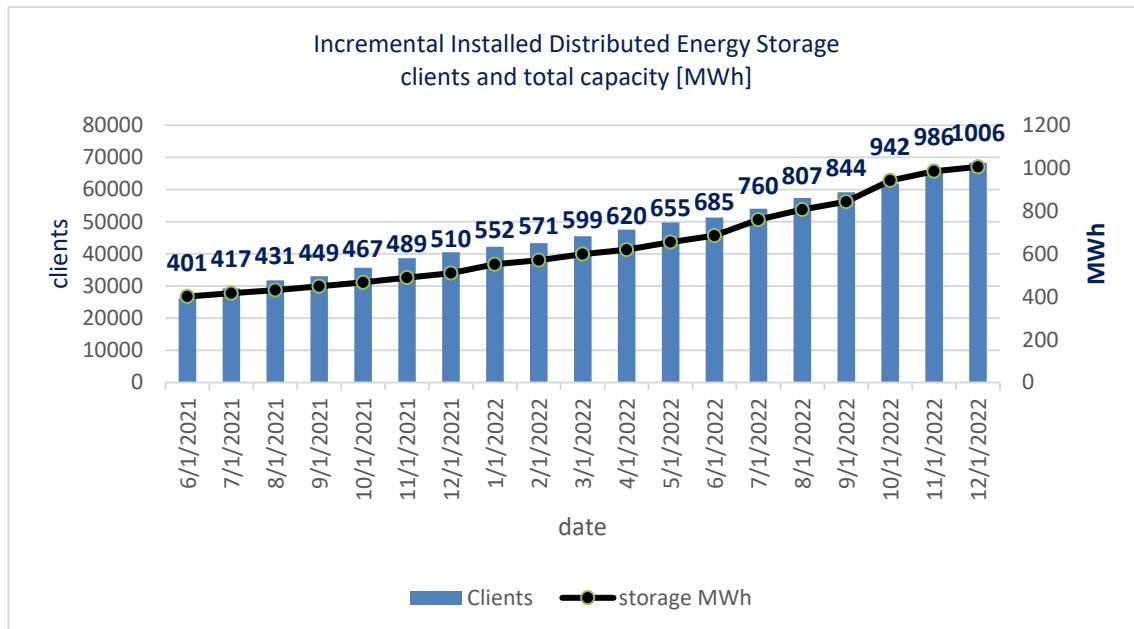


Figure 2. Incremental installed distributed energy storage, in MWh, and corresponding net metering clients from June 2021 thru December 2022 as reported by LUMA to PREB.

114 On June 1st 2021, LUMA reported 401 MWh of installed distributed electric storage. On
115 December 1st 2022, 18 months later, LUMA reported 1006 MWh of installed distributed
116 electric storage. **From December 1st 2021 to December 1st 2022, one year, the installed**
117 **distributed electric storage doubled, from 501 MWh to 1006 MWh.**

118

119 **Thus, the installed generation capacity of net metering solar PV systems is doubling**
120 **every year and a half (doubling every 18 to 19 months) and the installed distributed**
121 **electric storage corresponding to these net metering clients is doubling every year.**

122

123 It is important to note that citizens that install solar PV systems with batteries to serve a
124 portion of their home, disconnecting that portion of the electric load from the grid, do not
125 apply for net metering and therefore are not part of the previous statistics.

126

127 On March 30, 2023, the president of the Puerto Rico Energy Bureau, Edison Aviles,
128 declared on a hearing of the Puerto Rico Senate Committee on Strategic Projects and
129 Energy that all tranche 1 utility scale renewable energy projects (18 projects in total) are
130 not under construction as planned due to “differences about the points of interconnection
131 between LUMA and PREPA”. Therefore, in Puerto Rico utility scale renewables are not
132 growing while distributed renewables are growing at an accelerated pace.

133

134 Puerto Rico Act 17-2019, the Puerto Rico Energy Public Policy Act, indicates on its first
135 paragraph that its purpose is “To create the “Puerto Rico Energy Public Policy Act” for the
136 purposes of establishing the Puerto Rico public policy on energy in order to set the
137 parameters for a resilient, reliable, and robust energy system with just and reasonable rates

138 for all class of customers; make it feasible for energy system users to produce and
139 participate in energy generation; facilitate the interconnection of distributed generation
140 systems and microgrids, and unbundle and transform the electrical power system into an
141 open system..." Through Law 17-2019 Section 1.6, the Puerto Rico legislature explained
142 that Puerto Rico's energy policy required 40% renewable energy by 2025, 60% by 2040,
143 and 100% by 2050, while keeping electricity prices below 20 cents per kWh. The
144 Legislature also set policy goals of facilitating distributed generation "through any available
145 mechanism", and to encourage use of energy storage. Id.

146

147 Is the proposed PAD aligned with Puerto Rico's renewable energy policy? No. The
148 narrative provided in Exhibit P "Legacy Charge Derivation" shows that the fixed charge of
149 the proposed legacy charge is meant to tax the adoption of distributed renewables, the only
150 renewable sector growing in Puerto Rico.

151

152 Exhibit P explicitly states that the fixed charge component of the legacy charge is a sun tax.
153 Quoting from Exhibit P, page 4, "Fixed charges (as opposed to volumetric charges) are
154 preferable as the primary instrument for raising additional revenues, as they are less
155 impacted by the adoption of solar panels by consumers." In other words – customers can
156 install rooftop solar to lower their energy burden from a volumetric charge – but not a fixed
157 charge. The PAD uses a fixed charge to impose an energy burden on Puerto Ricans that
158 they can only escape by leaving the archipelago or defecting from the grid.

159

160 Is the reality of growing distributed solar generation and distributed storage properly
161 captured by the proposed PAD? No. The narrative provided in Exhibit P "Legacy Charge

162 "Derivation" shows that the proposed PAD is completely disconnected from the
163 technological reality of growing distributed solar photovoltaic plus batteries in Puerto Rico.

164

165 Conclusion 1 – The proposed PAD fails to analyze, or willfully ignores, current rate of
166 adoption of distributed energy.

167 Conclusion 2 – Renewable energy adoption policy is harmed by taxing the only renewable
168 energy sector growing for the sake of paying an uninsured debt.

169

170 **III. Why the fast adoption? Current cost of solar PV and batteries in Puerto Rico**
171 **and expected decline in cost**

172

173 The narrative provided in Exhibit P "Legacy Charge Derivation" shows that the proposed
174 PAD is disconnected from the technological reality, specifically cost, of solar photovoltaic
175 plus batteries in Puerto Rico.

176

177 The narrative explicitly accepts that the adoption of solar rooftop generation is, from page
178 4, "relatively attractive for a variety of reasons, including the large number of sunny days
179 per year, the prevalence of buildings with flat roofs, and the generous incentives offered to
180 adopters of solar technology under Puerto Rico law. Consumers purchasing solar panels
181 would see an immediate reduction in their bill from all volumetric charges."

182

183 Further quoting Exhibit P, page 4, "To avoid paying such fixed monthly charges, a
184 customer would need to remove themselves from the grid entirely. This in turn would
185 require that a customer install sufficient additional equipment, such as batteries, to ensure

186 access to reliable electricity at all times (and be willing to take the risk in the event their
187 own generation and storage capabilities did not suffice). While the cost of the required
188 additional equipment is also decreasing and many solar rooftop installations on Puerto Rico
189 already involve some battery capacity, **the cost of installing enough backup capacity to**
190 **disconnect from the electric grid entirely (and thereby avoid both fixed connection**
191 **and volumetric charges) will likely remain prohibitive for the vast majority of**
192 **customers for many years to come (if ever).”** (**Emphasis** provided by the author of this
193 report).

194

195 The proposed PAD makes no attempt to justify its assumption that installation cost of
196 energy storage is “prohibitive” and will remain so “for many years to come”. In this section
197 we challenge this assumption using representative cost of these systems in Puerto Rico and
198 estimates of declining cost for this technology provided by the US Department of Energy.

199

200 Table 1 shows representative real costs of ten (10) rooftop solar photovoltaic residential
201 systems, with LiFePO4 batteries and without batteries, installed in Puerto Rico (2021 cost).

Table 1. Representative real costs of rooftop solar photovoltaic residential systems, with LiFePO4 batteries, in Puerto Rico (2021)

| | Total Cost | PV capacity kW | LiFePO4 storage kWh | \$/W with storage | Total cost no storage | \$/W no storage | LiFePO4 storage kW | Total cost LiFePO4 storage no PV |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | \$40,529 | 5.60 | 28.8 | \$7.24 | \$26,337 | \$4.70 | 7.20 | \$35,319 |
| 2 | \$31,816 | 6.75 | 19.2 | \$4.71 | \$22,021 | \$3.26 | 4.80 | \$25,844 |
| 3 | \$28,000 | 6.08 | 15.0 | \$4.61 | \$20,129 | \$3.31 | 3.75 | \$22,472 |
| 4 | \$28,950 | 5.60 | 14.4 | \$5.17 | \$21,354 | \$3.81 | 3.60 | \$23,740 |
| 5 | \$24,900 | 3.96 | 19.2 | \$6.29 | \$15,105 | \$3.81 | 4.80 | \$20,777 |
| 6 | \$26,950 | 3.80 | 28.8 | \$7.09 | \$12,758 | \$3.36 | 7.20 | \$22,933 |
| 7 | \$27,328 | 6.40 | 19.2 | \$4.27 | \$17,533 | \$2.74 | 4.80 | \$21,588 |
| 8 | \$33,700 | 7.20 | 28.8 | \$4.68 | \$19,508 | \$2.71 | 7.20 | \$27,430 |
| 9 | \$31,076 | 7.20 | 15.0 | \$4.32 | \$23,205 | \$3.22 | 3.75 | \$24,806 |
| 10 | \$33,700 | 7.20 | 14.4 | \$4.68 | \$26,104 | \$3.63 | 3.60 | \$27,430 |
| average | \$29,602 | 6.02 | 19.3 | \$4.92 | \$19,746 | \$3.28 | 4.83 | \$24,113 |
| minimum | \$24,900 | 3.80 | 14.4 | \$4.27 | \$12,758 | \$2.71 | 3.60 | \$20,883 |
| maximum | \$40,529 | 7.20 | 28.8 | \$7.24 | \$26,337 | \$4.70 | 7.20 | \$34,259 |

202 These costs are real cost of installed systems in Puerto Rico as reported by University of
203 Puerto Rico investigators³ and currently being used in “The Puerto Rico 100 Study”⁴.

204

205 Total cost includes: equipment (solar panels, inverter, charge controllers (if not included
206 within the inverter), batteries), “balance of system” items (mounting racks, nuts and bolts,
207 electrical tubing, wires, electric protection, electrical boxes) design, installation, retrofit (if
208 needed) and profit.

209

210 PV capacity refers to the total installed generating capacity of the solar photovoltaic array,
211 in thousands of Watts (kW).

212

213 Lithium ion batteries (specifically LiFePO4) are used in every installation. The storage
214 capacity is shown in Table 1 in kWh.

215

216 Total system cost for a system with no batteries, but ready to add batteries, is estimated by
217 subtracting the actual cost of LiFePO4 batteries in Puerto Rico (2021, \$458.06 per kWh)
218 and installation cost for the batteries (\$1,000).

219

³ The data in the Total Cost and Total Cost - No Storage columns was obtained from reports submitted to the Puerto Rico Grid Resilience and Transitions to 100% Renewable Energy Study (PR100) by Members of the Puerto Rico Energy Recovery and Resilience Advisory Group. The figures in the rest of the columns were derived from that Total Cost data. The data submitted to the PR100 Study is attached as **Exhibit 1**

⁴ Puerto Rico Grid Resilience and Transitions to 100% Renewable Energy Study (PR100), -

<https://www.energy.gov/gdo/puerto-rico-grid-resilience-and-transitions-100-renewable-energy-study-pr100>.

220 The storage package capacity, in kW, is calculated from the energy capacity, in kWh,
221 dividing by 4 hours.⁵

222

223 Total storage package, including inverter cost, is estimated by subtracting: the actual cost of
224 solar panels in Puerto Rico (2021, \$0.55/W), panels rack cost (\$180 per 4 panels, 400 W
225 panels) and installation cost for the rooftop solar panels (\$1,500).

226

227 For the ten rooftop solar systems described in Table 1 above, I calculated a “dollar per
228 installed W” (\$/W) index for both the system with batteries and the system without
229 batteries for comparison. The average installed cost of a system without batteries is
230 \$3.28/W. The average installed cost of a system with LiFePO4 batteries is \$4.92/W. Figure
231 3 summarizes this comparison graphically.

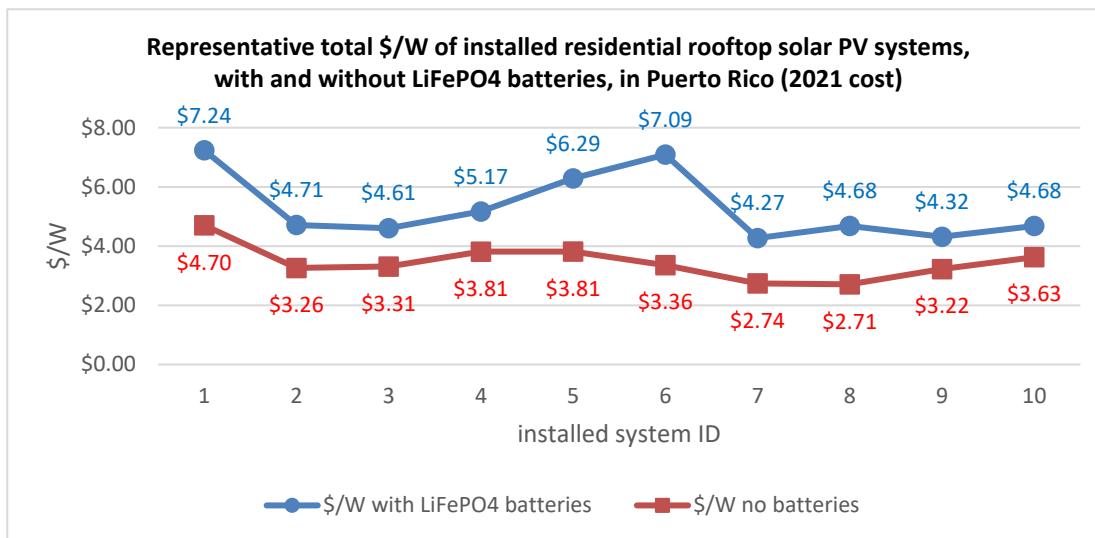


Figure 3. Representative total \$/W of installed residential rooftop solar photovoltaic systems, with and without LiFePO4 batteries, in Puerto Rico (2021 data).

⁵ For the “average” system in Table 1 divide $19.3 \text{ kWh}/4 \text{ h} = 4.83 \text{ kW}$. This capacity is of the total storage package only and not to be confused with the 6 kW of installed solar panels in the same “average” system.

232 Contrary to the assumptions in Exhibit P “Legacy Charge Derivation” of the proposed PAD
233 the cost of residential solar photovoltaic systems with batteries continues to decrease. How
234 fast is the cost declining? How to estimate the expected reduced cost of these systems in the
235 future?

236

237 The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) specializes in the research and
238 development of renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy systems integration, and
239 sustainable transportation. NREL is a federally funded research and development center
240 sponsored by the Department of Energy.

241

242 NREL produces the Annual Technology Baseline (ATB) as “a consistent set of technology
243 cost and performance data for energy analysis”⁶. NREL’s ATB predicts the declining cost
244 of this, and other, technologies. Three scenarios are normally calculated: conservative,
245 moderate and advanced.

246

247 In the conservative scenario it is assumed that historical investments come to market with
248 continued industrial learning. Technology looks similar to today, with few changes from
249 technology innovation. Public and private research and development (R&D) investment
250 decreases.

251

252 In the moderate scenario it is assumed that innovations observed in today's marketplace
253 become more widespread, and innovations that are nearly market-ready today come into the

⁶ NREL (National Renewable Energy Laboratory). 2022. "2022 Annual Technology Baseline." Golden, CO. <https://atb.nrel.gov/>.

254 marketplace. Current levels of public and private R&D investment continue. This scenario
255 may be considered the expected level of technology innovation.

256

257 In the advanced scenario it is assumed that innovations that are far from market-ready today
258 are successful and become widespread in the marketplace. New technology architectures
259 could look different from those observed today. Public and private R&D investment
260 increases.

261

262 In our analysis we only consider the conservative and moderate scenarios. The expected
263 declining capital cost of residential solar photovoltaic systems, according to NREL ATB
264 2022 model in \$/W, is shown in Figure 4.

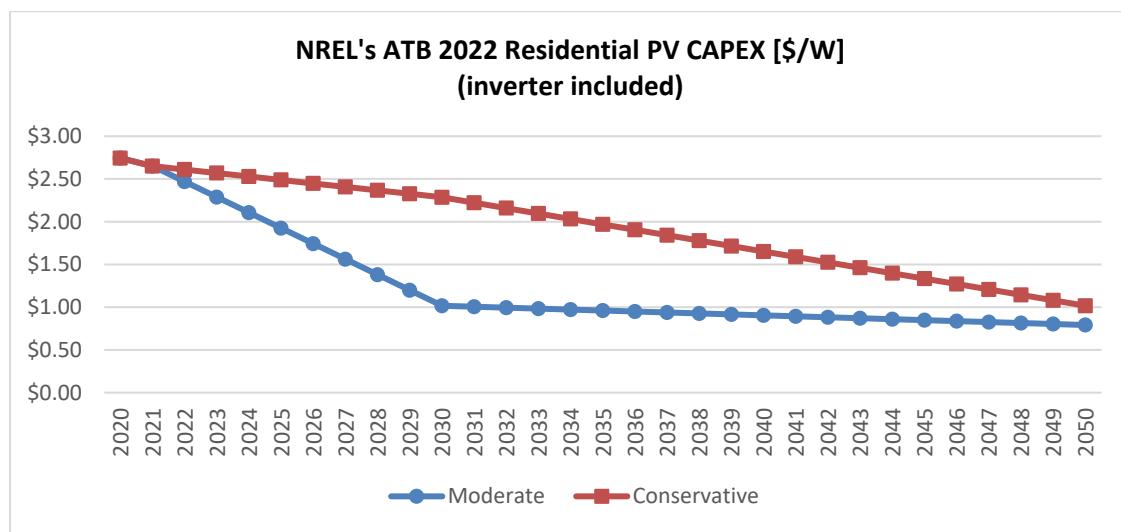


Figure 4. Declining capital cost of residential solar photovoltaic systems based on NREL ATB 2022.

265 We calculate the declining cost of rooftop solar based on the trajectories established by
266 NREL ATB and the 2021 Puerto Rico's average cost of solar rooftop photovoltaic systems
267 with no batteries, as shown in Figure 5.

268

269 Note that the cost in Puerto Rico, in 2021, is \$3.28/W while NREL's cost in the same year
270 is \$2.65/W. The difference in cost is due to the type of inverter used in the representative
271 Puerto Rico installations, a more expensive hybrid inverter, one that is ready to add
272 batteries.

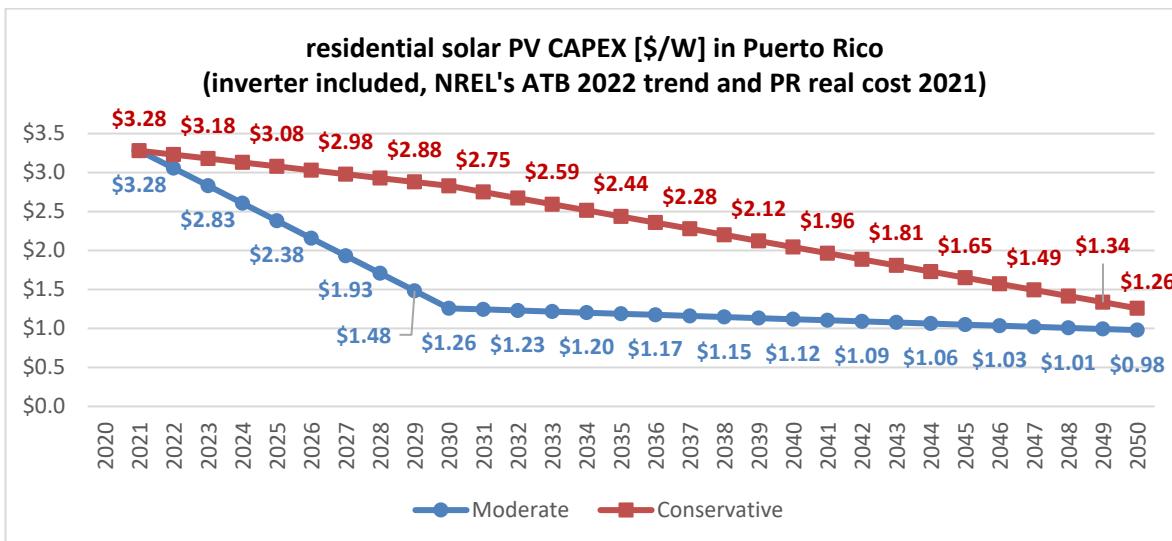


Figure 5. Declining cost of rooftop solar (trend from NREL ATB 2022) and the 2021 Puerto Rico's average cost of solar rooftop photovoltaic systems with no batteries.

273 The expected declining total cost of residential lithium ion battery systems (5 kW - 20
274 kWh, i.e. 4 hours of storage), according to NREL ATB 2022 model, is shown in Figure 6.

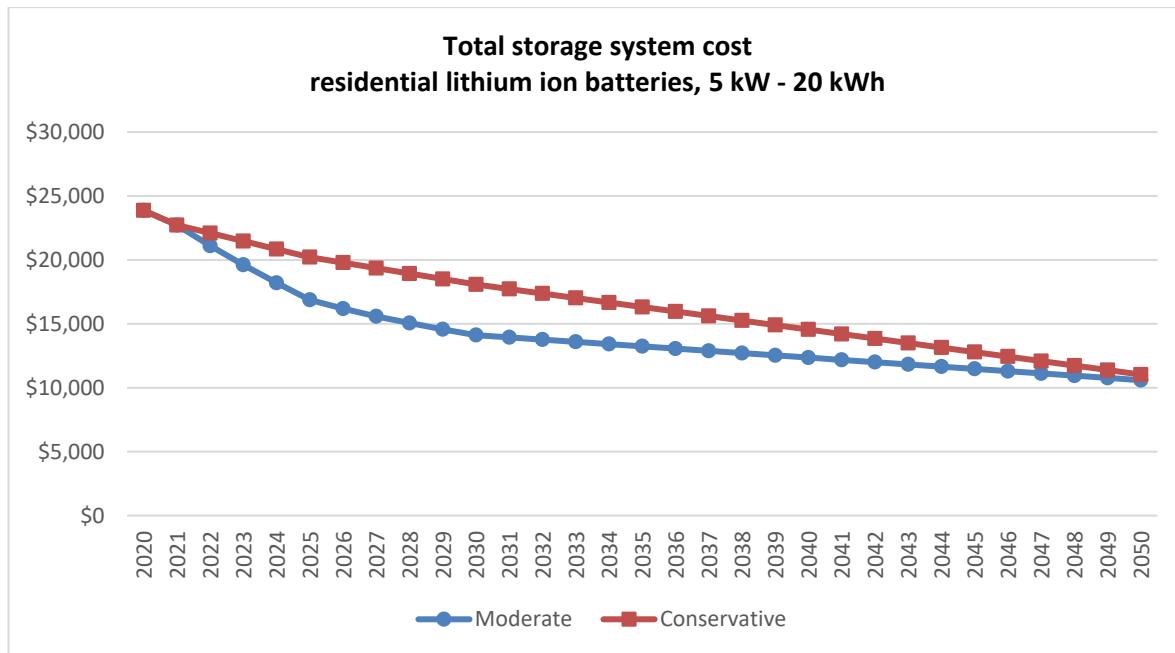


Figure 6. Total storage system cost for residential Li ion batteries in the US, ATB 2022.

275 From Table 1 the average cost of a storage system package in Puerto Rico, for lithium ion
276 (LiFePO₄) batteries was \$24,113 in 2021. We calculate the declining total cost of
277 residential lithium ion battery systems based on the trajectories established by NREL ATB
278 and the 2021 Puerto Rico's average cost, as shown in Figure 7.

279

280 Note that total storage cost in Puerto Rico, in 2021, is \$24,113 while NREL's cost in the
281 same year is \$22,725. Further note that the average storage system size is 4.8 kW and 19.3
282 kWh, very similar to NREL's values of 5 kW 20 kWh.

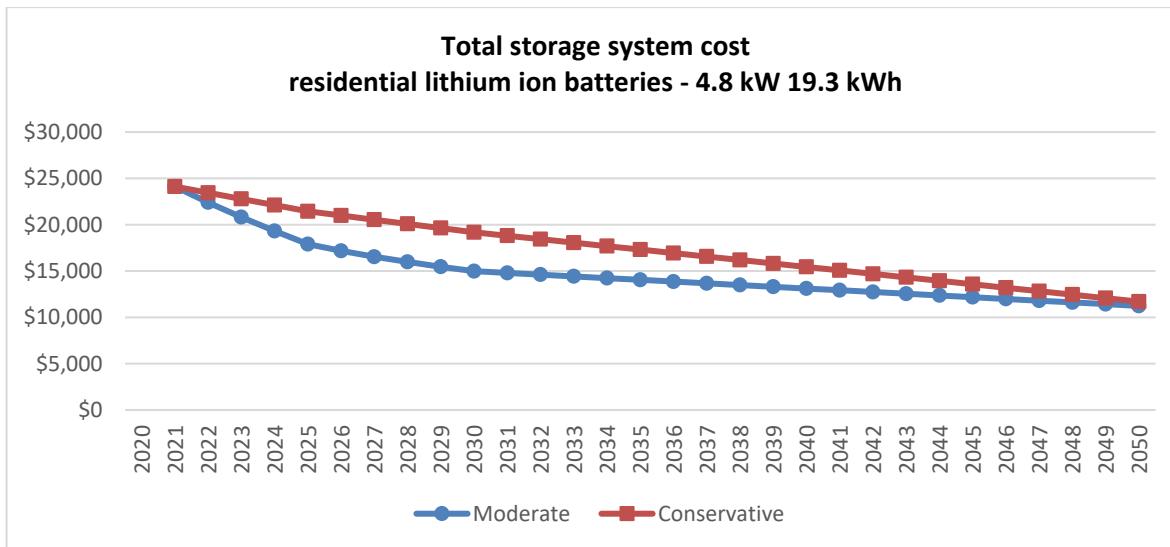


Figure 7. Estimated declining total cost of storage (trend from NREL ATB 2022) and the 2021 Puerto Rico's average cost of storage.

283 The proposed PAD is disconnected from the technological reality, specifically the cost of
284 solar photovoltaic plus batteries in Puerto Rico. The rapid decline in cost of distributed
285 solar photovoltaic generation plus energy storage is completely overlooked by the proposed
286 PAD.

287

288 Conclusion 3 – Bondholders are experiencing a technological change they did not foresee.
289 Failure to foresee technological change while investing is not cause to change the bonds
290 guarantee whether the bondholders' claims are secured or not. Nor is it cause to tax the new
291 technology as the proposed PAD does.

292 **IV. Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE): definition, uses and limitations**

293

294 The US Department of Energy (NREL) defines the leveled cost of energy (LCOE) as
295 “LCOE is a summary metric that combines the primary technology cost and performance
296 parameters: capital expenditures, operations expenditures, and capacity factor.”⁷

297 LCOE can be useful to assess the effect of technology advances in future projections
298 because it accounts for primary cost (e.g., up-front capital costs, financing cost) and key
299 performance parameters (e.g., capacity factor) when comparing different technology
300 innovation scenarios.

301 But LCOE does not capture the full value to the user of reliable electric service, i.e., the
302 electricity worth.

303 Furthermore, LCOE does not capture the economic value of a particular generation type to
304 the system and therefore may not serve as an appropriate basis for comparisons between
305 technologies. This is so because LCOE ignores attributes that can vary significantly across
306 different technologies (both in terms of capability and cost) such as ramping, startup, and
307 shutdown that could be relevant for more detailed evaluations of generator cost and value to
308 the system.

309 In this report we use LCOE as an indicator, an index that quantifies the relative cost of
310 electricity when comparing rooftop solar photovoltaic systems, with and without batteries
311 and connected and disconnected from the grid, vs the current cost of electricity from the
312 grid or the estimated cost of electricity under the proposed PAD.

⁷ *Levelized Cost of Energy*, Nat'l. Renewable Energy Lab, <https://atb.nrel.gov/electricity/2021/definitions>.

313 Table 2 summarizes the parameters used in the calculation of LCOE for all cases. The
314 parameters specific to each case are discussed in the corresponding section of this report.

Table 2. Parameters, and values, used in the calculation of the Levelized Cost of Energy

| parameter and units | parameter value |
|--|-----------------|
| rooftop solar PV system capacity (solar panels capacity) in kW | 5 |
| capacity factor, dimensionless | 0.174 (17.4%) |
| discount rate, dimensionless | 0.435 (4.35%) |
| ideal annual energy yield, kWh | 7621.2 |
| annual energy yield reduction, dimensionless | 0.005 (5%) |
| system lifetime, years | 25 |
| annual operation and maintenance (O&M) cost PV only, \$ | 16 |
| annual operation and maintenance (O&M) cost PV + storage, \$ | 71 |

315 In the following sections we present the LCOE for two different scenarios: (1) rooftop solar
316 PV systems with net metering and no batteries vs. the current electricity cost from the
317 electric grid to residential end users, and (2) rooftop solar PV systems with batteries
318 disconnected from the electric grid (grid deflection) vs estimated electricity cost from the
319 electric grid to residential end users under the proposed PAD.

320

321 **V. Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) of rooftop solar PV systems with net
322 metering and no batteries vs. current electricity from the grid cost**

323

324 We calculate the LCOE of rooftop solar PV systems, 2021 system cost with a net metering
325 contract and no storage, for a 5-kW solar system with capital cost of \$3.28/W (average

326 value from Table 1), fixed operation and maintenance cost of \$16/year (a value equal to the
327 average value on the moderate scenario in NREL's ATB 2022) and utility interconnection
328 cost of \$4/month, or \$48/year the current interconnection cost, to be 16 ¢/kWh (0.16
329 ¢/kWh)⁸.

330 The LCOE for the same system, and same 2021 cost, with utility interconnection cost of
331 \$17/month, or \$204/year the proposed interconnection cost due to the fixed component of
332 the legacy charge, to be 18.1 ¢/kWh (0.181 ¢/kWh). **The fixed component of the legacy**
333 **charge becomes an immediate solar tax of 2.1 ¢/kWh.**

334 Note that we calculate LCOE for a system installed using 2021 costs. Since the actual cost
335 is declining a system installed in the future, say 2025, will result in a 2025 LCOE smaller
336 than the 2021 LCOE. For example, using \$2.38/W as the capital cost (from Figure 5, ATB
337 2022 moderate scenario trend) the resulting LCOE is 14 ¢/kWh (0.14 ¢/kWh).

338 Conclusion 4 – Based on Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) calculations the proposed
339 “legacy charge” is designed to tax, therefore penalize, the adoption of residential solar
340 energy thru net metering.

341

342

343

⁸ For comparison ATB 2022 list the LCOE for a residential solar PV system with no batteries as 8.3 ¢/kWh, about half of our calculated value. Reasons for this discrepancy are: the inverter cost assumed by NREL in the ATB are much lower than the inverter cost in Table 1 (a hybrid inverter capable of adding batteries), and NREL also incorporates in its financial components tax credits available in the continental US and not available in Puerto Rico.

344 **VI. Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) of rooftop solar PV systems with batteries,**
345 **system disconnected from the grid vs. electricity from the grid with proposed**
346 **PAD cost**

347

348 We calculate the LCOE of rooftop solar PV systems, 2021 system cost with storage, for a
349 5-kW, 20 kWh solar system, disconnected from the electric grid. We use total capital cost
350 of \$4.92/W (average value from Table 1), fixed operation and maintenance cost of \$71/year
351 (a value equal to the average value on the moderate scenario in NREL's ATB 2022) and no
352 utility interconnection cost.

353 Since the selected lifetime of the project is 25 years, we include the cost of one battery bank
354 replacement in year 12, \$7,635. We use the battery cost in year 12 as per the decline
355 established in the moderate scenario of the ATB 2022 for lithium ion batteries. The LCOE
356 is 27.8 ¢/kWh (0.278 \$/kWh).

357 The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) Executive Director must provide
358 monthly reports to its Governing Board. The February 2023 version of this report⁹ indicates
359 that the average cost of residential electricity, fiscal year to date (i.e., July 2022 thru
360 February 2023, 9 months) was 28.41 ¢/kWh.

361 **Thus, the current electricity cost from the electric grid, prior to the proposed PAD, is**
362 **already more expensive than grid defection cost thru rooftop solar photovoltaic**
363 **generation with storage.**

⁹ PREPA, *Monthly Report to the Governing Board* (Feb. 2023), <https://aeepr.com/es-pr/investors/FinancialInformation/Monthly%20Reports/2023/February%202023.pdf>.

364 The average annual solar PV electricity generation of the 5 kW/20 kWh system is 7,145
365 kWh, or 595.4 kWh per month. Under the proposed PAD a residential client buying this
366 amount of electricity from the grid will pay:

367 $\$17 + 500*(0.2841 + 0.0075) + 95*(0.2841 + 0.03) = \192.64 , which results in 32.37
368 ¢/kWh for unreliable electric service.

369 The imposition of the proposed legacy charge with the subsequent electric energy price
370 increase, a price increase associated to unreliable electric power, and the declining prices of
371 rooftop solar photovoltaic systems plus batteries will create an incentive for customers to
372 permanently disconnect from the electric grid. This is called “grid defection”.

373

374 A 2014 study¹⁰ shows that in places like Hawaii the conditions for grid defection are
375 already present. The 2018 average price of residential electricity in Hawaii varies from 31
376 ¢/kWh to 37 ¢/kWh. As we have calculated in this report the cost of un-reliable electric
377 energy in Puerto Rico, after the proposed legacy charge will be approximately 32 ¢/kWh.

378

379 **Contrary to what is assumed in Exhibit P of the proposed PAD significant grid
380 defection could become a reality in Puerto Rico if the proposed legacy charge is
381 implemented.**

382

383 Further note that we calculate LCOE for a system installed using 2021 costs. Since the
384 actual cost is declining a system installed in the future, say 2025, will result in a 2025
385 LCOE smaller than the 2021 LCOE. For example, using \$3.65/W as the capital cost (using

¹⁰ “The Economics of Grid Defection: When and Where Distributed Solar Generation Plus Storage Competes with Traditional Utility Service”, The Rocky Mountain Institute and others, 2014.

386 the ATB 2022 moderate scenario declining cost trend for batteries, similar to Figure 7) the
387 resulting LCOE is 22 ¢/kWh (0.22 ¢/kWh).

388 Conclusion 5 – The LCOE of residential rooftop solar photovoltaic systems, including
389 batteries and using equipment of good warranty and LiFePO4 batteries, already cost less than
390 the cost of electricity from the grid after applying the proposed legacy charge.

391

392 Conclusion 6 - Contrary to what is assumed in Exhibit P of the proposed PAD significant
393 grid defection could become a reality in Puerto Rico if the proposed legacy charge is
394 implemented, thus rendering the proposed PAD useless.

395

396 **VII. The legacy charge will not improve electric grid reliability**

397

398 The proposed PAD fails to include needed investments in the electric grid to achieve reliable
399 electric service. This failure will only drive further adoption of distributed solar energy and
400 reduce sales.

401

402 One metric used to measure the reliability of U.S. electric utilities is the System Average
403 Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI), which measures the total time an average customer
404 experiences a non-momentary power interruption in a one-year period¹¹. For utilities that
405 report SAIDI metrics using Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
406 standards, LUMA follows this practice, non-momentary interruptions are those lasting longer

¹¹ 1366-2012 - IEEE Guide for Electric Power Distribution Reliability Indices.

407 than five minutes. SAIDI is often paired with the System Average Interruption Frequency
408 Index (SAIFI), an index that measures the frequency of interruptions.

409

410 The Energy Information Administration (US Department of Energy) reports, for 2021, an
411 average SAIDI of 121.5 minutes and an average SAIFI of 1.03 interruptions per customer¹².

412 Using data reported by LUMA to the Puerto Rico Energy Bureau (PREB) in 2022 the annual
413 distribution system SAIDI was 1,022 minutes and the annual distribution system SAIFI was
414 4.7 interruptions per customer¹³.

415

416 In January 2023, LUMA reported 2,417.75 minutes of outages, per customer served, for the
417 eighteen months between June 2021 and December 2022. This is a significant drop in
418 performance compared to the expected performance, measured by the baseline set by the
419 Puerto Rico Energy Bureau, of 1,864.15 months for 18 months.¹⁴

420

421 In the summer of 2021, LUMA reported that the average time for restoration of a customer's
422 electric service following an outage had increased significantly 25 out of 26 regions of Puerto
423 Rico.¹⁵ The average system-wide time to restore electric service after an interruption
424 increased from 2 hours and 43 minutes during June, July and August 2020 to 4 hours and 38

¹² *Table 11.1 Reliability Metrics of U.S. Distribution System*, U.S. Energy Infor. Admin.
https://www.eia.gov/electricity/annual/html/epa_11_01.html

¹³ https://energia.pr.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2023/03/Resumen-Metricas-Master_Jan2023_Revised-1.xlsx

¹⁴ [Submission of Corrected Spreadsheets on Performance Metrics Quarterly Report for October through December 2022, and Corrected Data on Reliability Metrics for July through August 2022, PREB Docket NEPR-MI-2019-0007 \(March 3, 2023\)](https://energia.pr.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2023/03/Submission-of-Corrected-Spreadsheets-on-Performance-Metrics-Quarterly-Report-for-October-through-December-2022-and-Corrected-Data-on-Reliability-Metrics-for-July-through-August-2022-PREB-Docket-NEPR-MI-2019-0007-March-3-2023.pdf)

¹⁵ *Id.*

425 minutes during June, July and August 2021.¹⁶ Puerto Ricans across the archipelago reported
426 lost food and medicine and damaged appliances from frequent outages:

427

428 • "Ashlee Vega, who lives in northwestern Puerto Rico, said the power fluctuations this
429 month were so imperceptible that it took her several hours to realize her appliances
430 were not working right. The new refrigerator she had bought in February - to replace
431 an old one that gave out after enduring years of volatile electrical surges - was fried."¹⁷

432 • "It has been hard to expand the business as frequent power cuts force him to close the
433 store and also damage the fridges, which are costly to repair."¹⁸

434 • "In early August, the Independent Consumer Protection Office said it had received
435 about twice as many monthly complaints under LUMA than it had when PREPA
436 managed the grid; the complaints have been primarily related to service disruptions
437 and equipment damaged by voltage fluctuations."¹⁹

438 • "The latest outage unleashed a flood of complaints on social media as anger spread
439 among thousands of people who were forced to throw out food and refrigerated
440 medication including insulin in recent days. Some also complained about damaged
441 appliances as lights flickered on and off since Thursday's outage that left 900,000
442 people in the dark."²⁰

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Patricia Mazzei, *Why Don't We Have Electricity?: Outages Plague Puerto Rico*, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 19, 2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/19/us/puerto-rico-electricity-protest.html>.

¹⁸ Nina Lakhani, *We want sun: the battle for the solar power in Puerto Rico*, THE GUARDIAN (Oct. 18, 2021) <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/18/puerto-rico-solar-power-climate-resilience>.

¹⁹ Cathy Kunkel & Tom Sanzillo, Puerto Rico Grid Privatization Flaws Highlighted in First Two Months of Operation (August 2021) http://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Puerto-Rico-Grid-Privatization-Flaws-Highlighted-in-First-Two-Months-of-Operation_August-2021.pdf.

²⁰ *Massive power outage in Puerto Rico affects hundreds of thousands amid growing outrage*, CBS NEWS (June 16, 2021), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/puerto-rico-power-outage-latest-2021-06-16/>.

449 • "The list of recent incidents includes massive power outages and an increase in power
450 surges. These, along with daily complaints of citizens' damaged equipment, are some
451 examples of the company's inability to manage a complex system."²³

452

453 Conclusion 7 – Rooftop solar photovoltaic systems with batteries are currently less costly
454 than unreliable electricity from the electric grid. This lack of reliability from the electricity
455 supplied by the electric grid will further drive the adoption of rooftop solar PV systems with
456 storage.

457

458 Conclusion 8 - The proposed legacy charge will increase the cost of electricity from the
459 electric grid, but will not increase the reliability of this service, thus accelerating the

²¹ María Luisa Paúl, *Two major power outages in a week fuel fear in Puerto Rico – and memories of Hurricane María*, THE WASHINGTON POST (June 18, 2021), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/06/18/puerto-rico-power-outages/>.

²² Puerto Ricans March to Protest Ongoing Power Outages After Privatization of Electric Grid. DEMOCRACY NOW! (Oct. 18, 2021).

https://www.democracynow.org/2021/10/18/headlines/puerto_ricans_march_to_protest_ongoing_power_outages_after_privatization_of_electric_grid

²³ Johnny Irizarry Rojas, *Four years after María, Puerto Rico's power grid still in shambles* | Commentary, ORLANDO SENTINEL (Sept. 22, 2021), <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/guest-commentary/os-op-puerto-rico-power-grid-in-shambles-20210922-w6cwidrgwffzrb25ruylhigsmry-story.html>.

460 adoption of distributed renewables and probably increasing grid defection, or partial grid
461 defection.

462

463 **VIII. Is the public guaranteed continuity of electric service under the proposed
464 PAD?**

465

466 Is the public guaranteed continuity of electric service under the PAD? No.

467

468 The PAD does not mention reliability²⁴ of electric energy service, nor it explain how the
469 legacy charge will provide for a resilient²⁵ electric power system for the public²⁶. Thus, the
470 PAD completely ignores the primary reason a utility has been granted a monopoly in
471 exchange for cost-based regulated rates, the obligation to serve and provide an essential
472 service.

473

474 The legacy charge sole purpose is to collect money to pay old debt. The legacy charge
475 collects no money to invest on the electric grid in order to make it more reliable and

²⁴ NERC is the North American Electric Reliability Corporation; the entity certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to establish and enforce reliability standards for the interconnected bulk power system in North America (www.nerc.com). NERC's definition of reliability is the degree of performance of the elements of the bulk electric system that results in electricity being delivered to customers within accepted standards and in the amount desired. Reliability may be measured by the frequency, duration, and magnitude of adverse effects on the electric supply.

²⁵ From the Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 21 “the ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions. Resilience includes the ability to withstand and recover from deliberate attacks, accidents, or naturally occurring threats or incidents.”

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2013/02/12/presidential-policy-directive-critical-infrastructure-security-and-resil>.

²⁶ “Without some numerical basis for assessing resilience, it would be impossible to monitor changes or show that community resilience has improved. At present, no consistent basis for such measurement exists. We recommend therefore that a National Resilience Scorecard be established.” - National Research Council. 2012. Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/13457>.

476 resilient. This leaves PREPA with inadequate funds to even keep the system from
477 deteriorating further, let alone improving. In fact, section VIII. Certain Risk Factors to Be
478 Considered of the proposed PAD (page 356) indicates “*The Certified Fiscal Plan*
479 *projections account for the implementation of rate adjustments necessary to meet PREPA’s*
480 *operational and capital expenditure needs. For example, during the first 10 years, PREPA*
481 *will need to provide an additional approximately \$500 million (or 5% of the approximately*
482 *\$10 billion paid over 10 years) of cost share to access FEMA funding that was not included*
483 *in the Certified Fiscal Plan. Moreover, benchmarking PREPA against comparable utilities*
484 *suggests that it may need to spend an additional \$93 million, increasing to \$125 million on*
485 *capital expenditures annually between Fiscal Years 2035 to 2051.”*

486

487 Thus, proposed PAD recognizes that the cost of providing reliable electric service from the
488 electric grid will be higher than the estimated electricity cost of 32 ¢/kWh including legacy
489 charge. Is this estimate, approximately \$2.5 billion, enough to provide reliable electric
490 service? No. Estimates of required capital investment to increase reliability are much higher
491 as discussed in the following section.

492

493 **a. Puerto Rico’s electric energy delivery infrastructure is weak**

494

495 Puerto Rico’s electric energy delivery infrastructure, the Transmission and Distribution
496 (T&D) network, is weak as shown by its failed performance during a series of events prior

497 to Hurricanes Irma and María²⁷, and by its performance after Hurricane María²⁸ and
498 recently Hurricane Fiona²⁹. The fiscal year (2022-23) to date average residential electric
499 energy cost in Puerto Rico is 28.4 ¢/kWh. **Thus, the new rate of electricity, including the**
500 **legacy charge, will provide unreliable electricity at a cost of approximately 32 ¢/kWh**
501 **if the current fuel prices remain as they have been in from July 2022 thru February**
502 **2023.**

503

504 How much money is necessary to invest in the T&D network to obtain a reliable electric
505 energy supply? Different studies provide different estimates of needed investment to
506 achieve a reliable electric system.

507

508 The following Table³⁰, an estimate from 2017, summarizes the estimated rebuild cost
509 needed to “harden and enhance the resiliency of PREPA’s system”.

²⁷ Prior to Hurricane María a fire at the switchyard of Aguirre generation station in September 2016 caused a complete blackout in Puerto Rico that lasted days. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/22/us/fire-at-power-plant-leaves-puerto-rico-in-the-dark.html>.

²⁸ I. Umair, “Puerto Rico’s blackout, the largest in American history, explained,” Vox, 08-May-2018. [Online]. Available: <https://www.vox.com/2018/2/8/16986408/puerto-rico-blackout-power-hurricane>.

²⁹ <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/09/18/hurricane-fiona-knocks-out-puerto-ricos-power-00057387>.

³⁰ Table adapted from the Executive Summary of “Build Back Better: Reimagining and Strengthening the Power Grid of Puerto Rico”, Puerto Rico Energy Resiliency Working Group members and Navigant Consulting, Inc., A Report for Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York, Governor Ricardo Rosselló, Puerto Rico and William Long, Administrator FEMA, December 2017.

www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/PRERWG_Report_PR_Grid_Resiliency_Report.pdf.

Table E-1. Rebuild Cost Summary

| Item | Rebuild Recommendations | Total (millions, US\$) |
|------|--|------------------------|
| 1 | Overhead Distribution (includes 38 kV) | \$5,268 |
| 2 | Underground Distribution | \$35 |
| 3 | Transmission - Overhead | \$4,299 |
| 4 | Transmission - Underground | \$601 |
| 5 | Substations – 38 kV | \$856 |
| 6 | Substations – 115 kV & 230 kV | \$812 |
| 7 | System Operations | \$482 |
| 8 | Distributed Energy Resources | \$1,455 |
| 9 | Generation | \$3,115 |
| 10 | Fuel Infrastructure | \$683 |
| | Total Estimated Cost | \$17,606 |

510 Items 1 thru 6, inclusive, account for almost \$12 billion needed according to this study, for
511 electric grid “hardening”.

512

513 A more recent estimate, December 2022, from the Puerto Rico Department of Housing,
514 estimates that Puerto Rico will need a capital investment of about \$6.4 billion in the
515 electrical system beyond the federal funds available.³¹

516

³¹ DEP’T OF HOUS. [Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery Action Plan for the Use of CDBG-DR Funds for Electrical Power System Improvements](#) at 77 (Dec. 16, 2022).

517 The Plan of Adjustment is proposing to emit \$5.68 billion in new bonds at between 6% and
518 6.75% interest and accepts that this is not enough. The proposed PAD underestimates the
519 required capital investment to achieve reliable electric service by assuming a mere \$2.5
520 billion are needed. The required investment is much more.

521

522 Does this investment guarantee continuity of electric service after a strong Hurricane? No.
523 It is virtually impossible to protect every element of the T&D system from falling trees,
524 flying debris, landslides due to flooding, and the most severe hurricane winds.

525

526 Is there an alternative? Yes. Distributed and renewable electric energy generation plus
527 electric storage provides a better investment in Puerto Rico and in places with high
528 electricity costs, severe local reliability challenges or both. As presented in this report by
529 2025 solar photovoltaic electric energy plus storage will cost around 22 ¢/kWh while the
530 current cost + legacy charge shall produce a cost of about 32 ¢/kWh,

531

532 Are rooftop solar photovoltaic systems impervious to hurricanes? No. But our experience
533 during Hurricane María shows that when properly installed even a modest rooftop
534 photovoltaic system can provide resiliency and continuity of electric service post a major
535 hurricane.

536 **IX. Resiliency thru Distributed Renewable Energy**

537

538 A case study article³² describes how electric service resiliency is achieved thru the
539 adaptation of a relatively small existing residential photovoltaic system, originally grid-tied
540 under a net metering agreement with the utility, to a stand-alone system with batteries to
541 provide continuity of service after Hurricane María destroyed Puerto Rico's electric
542 transmission and distribution system.

543

544 A modest rooftop photovoltaic system with batteries (1 kW in solar panel capacity, 10 kWh
545 of energy storage, total cost of \$2,812) provided resiliency and continuity of electric service
546 post hurricane María. The electric service from the grid, at the location under study,
547 stopped 20 September 2017 and was restored 132 days later, on 30 January 2018. It took 31
548 days of old fashioned "walk around" to obtain the necessary equipment (charge controllers,
549 batteries, off-grid inverter) to adapt the net metering system into a stand-alone system³³.
550 The rooftop solar photovoltaic system operated uninterrupted for 101 days, until the electric
551 service from the grid was restored. The system was later re-connected to serve as a net
552 metering system and backup in the event of grid service failure.

553

554 In the article the authors also contrast the cost of buying and operating the photovoltaic
555 system to the cost of buying and operating a gasoline emergency generator to supply the

³² A. Irizarry-Rivera, K.V. Montano-Martinez, S. Alzate-Drada, F. Andrade, *A Case Study of Residential Electric Service Resiliency thru Renewable Energy Following Hurricane María*, Mediterranean Conference on Power Generation, Transmission, Distribution and Energy Conversion (MEDPower), Dubrovnik (Cavtat) Croatia, Nov. 12-15 2018.

³³ There was no electricity nor communications, therefore no Internet, in Puerto Rico for close to a month after Hurricane María.

556 same amount of energy. The cost of using a set of gasoline generators to provide the same
557 energy is less only if electricity from the grid is available within four months of the
558 blackout. This cost comparison does not include labor and transportation cost of procuring
559 fuel and oil, and the labor cost of performing oil changes and refueling the generator. Nor
560 did we assigned a monetary value to lost sleep re-fueling the generator in the middle of the
561 night.

562

563 This is one case study out of hundreds, if not thousands, of rooftop solar photovoltaic systems
564 that help the people of Puerto Rico survive a severe natural disaster. **The proposed PAD is**
565 **designed to make ownership of a rooftop solar photovoltaic system far more expensive**
566 **that it has to be and therefore to impede the ability to survive hurricanes in Puerto Rico,**
567 **an island that lies squarely in the hurricane path of the Caribbean Sea as shown in Figures**
568 9 and 10.

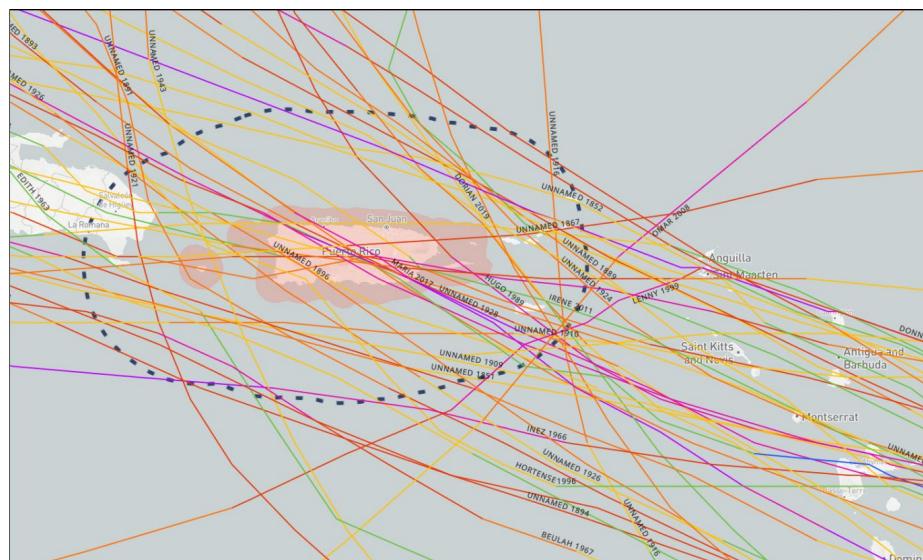


Figure 9. Forty-nine (49) hurricane tracks, from 1842-2021, crossing within 60 nautical miles of the Puerto Rico coast.³⁴ Note that Hurricane Fiona made landfall in Puerto Rico in 2022 raising the total to fifty (50).

³⁴ Nat'l Ocean Serv., NAT'L OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMIN. (NOAA), *Historical Hurricane Tracks*, available at www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/historical-hurricanes.

569 Forty-nine (49) hurricanes have crossed nearby Puerto Rico, within 60 nautical miles of its
570 coast from 1842 thru 2021. Eighteen (18) have made landfall during the same period, as shown
571 in Figure 9. Note that Hurricane Fiona made landfall in Puerto Rico in 2022 raising the total
572 of “cross nearby” to fifty (50) and nineteen making landfall. Of the 49 twenty-one (21) were
573 category 3 and higher hurricanes, in the Saffir-Simpson scale, with nine (9) making landfall.
574 Hurricanes categories 3 and higher are described as major hurricanes where near-total to total
575 power loss is likely for weeks.³⁵

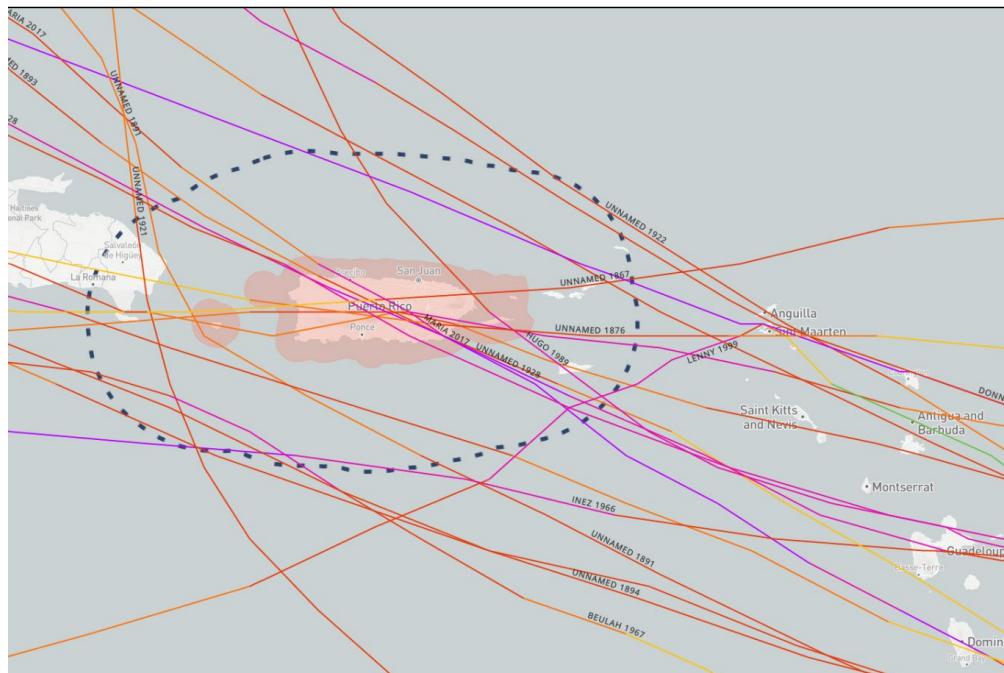


Figure 10. The path of the twenty-one (21) major hurricanes (category 3 and higher), from 1842-2021, crossing within 60 nautical miles of the Puerto Rico coast; nine (9) made landfall.

576 **The people of Puerto Rico should not be penalized for taking advantage of a market**
577 **driven technological change**, the significant drop in the retail price of solar photovoltaic

³⁵ T. Schott, C. Landsea, G. Hafele, J. Lorens, A. Taylor, H. Thurm, B. Ward, M. Willis, and W. Zaleski, "The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale", National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2012.

578 systems and batteries, **that allows them to use their clean indigenous resources, their**
579 **rooftop and the sun that falls on it, to generate the totality or a portion of their electric**
580 **energy needs.** Furthermore, **this technological change provides for increased resiliency**
581 **of electric energy services after a major hurricane and breaks the “natural monopoly”**
582 **of the traditional electric utility business.**

583

584 Conclusion 9 - Residents of Puerto Rico require a cost effective and resilient alternative to
585 generate electricity and the proposed PAD is an obstacle to achieve this much needed goal.

586

587 **X. Summary of Conclusions**

588

589 Conclusion 1 – The proposed PAD fails to analyze, or willfully ignores, current rate of
590 adoption of distributed energy.

591 Conclusion 2 – Renewable energy adoption policy is harmed by taxing the only renewable
592 energy sector growing for the sake of paying an uninsured debt.

593

594 Conclusion 3 – Bondholders are experiencing a technological change they did not foresee.
595 Failure to foresee technological change while investing is not cause to change the bonds
596 guarantee whether the bondholders’ claims are secured or not. Nor is it cause to tax the new
597 technology as the proposed PAD does.

598

599 Conclusion 4 – Based on Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE) calculations the proposed
600 “legacy charge” is designed to tax the adoption of residential solar energy and it penalizes
601 net metering adoption of solar photovoltaic rooftop generation.

602 Conclusion 5 – The LCOE of residential rooftop solar photovoltaic systems, including
603 batteries and using equipment of good warranty and LiFePO4 batteries, already cost less than
604 the cost of electricity from the grid after applying the proposed legacy charge.

605

606 Conclusion 6 - Contrary to what is assumed in Exhibit P of the proposed PAD significant
607 grid defection could become a reality in Puerto Rico if the proposed legacy charge is
608 implemented, thus rendering the proposed PAD useless.

609

610 Conclusion 7 - Distributed energy systems are currently equal in cost but not in reliability to
611 the electric grid, the electric grid being less reliable. Lack of reliability from the electricity
612 supplied by the electric grid further drives the adoption of rooftop solar PV systems.

613

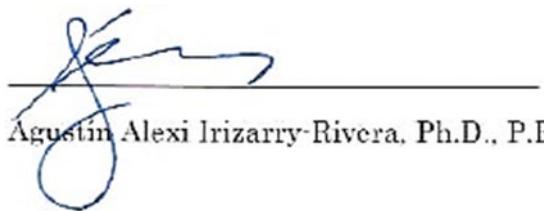
614 Conclusion 8 - The proposed legacy charge will increase the cost of electricity from the
615 electric grid, but will not increase the reliability of this service, thus accelerating the
616 adoption of distributed renewables and probably increasing grid defection, or partial grid
617 defection.

618

619 Conclusion 9 - Residents of Puerto Rico require a cost effective and resilient alternative to
620 generate electricity and the proposed PAD is an obstacle to achieve this much needed goal.

Signature

I declare, under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States of America, that the foregoing is true and correct. Signed this 28th day of April 2023, in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico,



Agustín Alexi Irizarry-Rivera, Ph.D., P.E.

621 **XI. Expert Witness Background**

622

623 Agustín A. Irizarry-Rivera obtained his bachelor, Magna Cum Laude, at Universidad de Puerto
624 Rico Mayagüez (UPRM) (1988), masters at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1990) and Ph.D.
625 at Iowa State University, Ames (1996) all in electrical engineering. Since 1997 he has been
626 Professor at the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Department UPRM where he teaches
627 graduate and undergraduate courses such as: Electric Systems Analysis, Fundamentals of Electric
628 Power Systems, Power System Analysis, Electric Machines, Electrical Systems Design, Advanced
629 Energy Conversion, Power Systems Dynamics and Control and Transmission and Distribution
630 Systems Design.

631

632 He has been elected member of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Personnel
633 Committee and the School of Engineering Personnel Committee in three occasions and has served
634 as President of both Committees twice. He has been elected Academic Senator to represent the
635 School of Engineering in the Academic Senate. Dr. Irizarry-Rivera has served as Assistant Dean
636 of Academic Affairs and Associate Director for Academic Affairs of the Electrical and Computer
637 Engineering Department at UPR Mayagüez.

638

639 Dr. Irizarry-Rivera conducts research in the topic of renewable energy and how to adapt the
640 existing power grid to add more of these resources in our energy portfolio. He had a research
641 internship at Plataforma Solar de Almería, Tabernas, Spain from 2008 to 2009 to study
642 concentrated solar thermal systems. He contributed to the development of dynamic models to
643 simulate the interaction between these plants and the electric grid. He has served as Consultant on
644 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects to Puerto Rico's Government agencies,
645 municipalities, private developers and consulting firms in and outside Puerto Rico. He has also
646 served as expert witness in civil court cases involving electric hazard, shock or electrocution.

647 Dr. Irizarry-Rivera conducts research in the topic of renewable energy and how to adapt the
648 existing power grid to add more of these resources into our energy portfolio. He had a research
649 internship at Plataforma Solar de Almería, Tabernas, Spain from 2008 to 2009 to study
650 concentrated solar thermal systems. During this research internship he contributed to the
651 development of dynamic models to simulate the interaction between these plants and the electric
652 grid. A few examples of funded research and education projects are:

653

654 **GEARED (Grid Engineering for Accelerated Renewable Energy Deployment) – (2013-2018)** A
655 \$929,000 project (UPRM budget out of \$6.9 million for the Consortium) to develop and run a
656 Distributed Technology Training Consortium in the Eastern United States, led by the Electric Power
657 Research Institute (EPRI) in collaboration with four U.S. universities (University of Puerto Rico
658 Mayaguez, Georgia Institute of Technology, Clarkson University, University of North Carolina at
659 Charlotte) and seventeen utilities and system operators. The Consortium will leverage utility industry
660 R&D results with power engineering educational expertise to prepare power engineers in
661 management and integration of renewable energy and distributed resources into the grid.

662

663 **Streamlined and Standardized Permitting and Interconnection Processes for Rooftop
664 Photovoltaic (PV) in Puerto Rico (2012-2013)** (Investigator) A \$301,911 project sponsored by the
665 US Energy Department that seeks to improve the PV energy market of rooftop systems up to 300 kW
666 in Puerto Rico. The project strives to create not only a standardized framework for PV deployment,
667 but also streamlined: organized, lean permitting and interconnection processes where most residential
668 and small commercial PV systems can be installed safely and quickly.

669

670 **Design of a Renewable Energy Track within the Electrical Engineering Program at Universidad
671 APEC, Dominican Republic (2011-2012)** A \$29,000 award to design a Renewable Energy Track
672 within the existing Electrical Engineering Program of UNAPEC.

673 **IGERT: Wind Energy Science, Engineering and Policy (WESEP)** (2011-2015) A \$171,600 sub-
674 award from Iowa State University, the lead Institution, to fund master students doing research in wind
675 technology, science, and policy as they relate to accomplishing three objectives: (a) increase the rate
676 of wind energy growth; (b) decrease the cost of wind energy; and (c) extend penetration limits.

677

678 **Achievable Renewable Energy Targets For Puerto Rico's Renewable Energy Portfolio**
679 **Standard** (2007-2009) A \$327,197 project sponsored by the Puerto Rico Energy Affairs
680 Administration (Administración de Asuntos de Energía), to produce an estimate, based in realistic
681 boundaries and limitations, of renewable energy available in Puerto Rico for electricity production.
682 The renewable energy resources studied were: biomass - including waste-to-energy, micro hydro,
683 ocean - waves, tides, currents and ocean thermal, solar - photovoltaic and solar thermal, wind – utility
684 as well as small wind, and fuel cells. The purpose of producing these estimates was to establish
685 adequate targets, as a function of time, for Puerto Rico's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

686

687 **Colegio San Ignacio - Ejemplo de Sostenibilidad** (2007-2008) A \$73,332 project to match the
688 energy needs of Colegio San Ignacio with its available renewable energy sources. Demonstration
689 projects with a strong educational component were designed for the School with the participation of
690 the School Faculty and students. The philosophy of the program was of sustainable development.

691

692 **Programa Panamericano de Capacitación en Ingeniería de Potencia Eléctrica** (2006-2008) A
693 \$97,370 educational project to deliver a Web-broadcast master program in electric power engineering
694 to engineers at UNAPEC University in the Dominican Republic. Courses in this program responded
695 to the reality and necessities of the Dominican Republic electric power industry and were aimed for
696 sustainable development.

697 **Caguas Sustainable Energy Showcase, Phase I** (2006-2007) A \$90,055 project sponsored by the
698 Municipality of Caguas, Puerto Rico to assess the current electric energy consumption profile, by
699 sector; residential, commercial, industrial and governmental, of Caguas and to propose achievable
700 goals (percentages of demand), by sector, to be satisfied using renewable energy sources.

701

702 **Intelligent Power Routers for Distributed Coordination in Electric Energy Processing**
703 **Networks** (2002-2005) A \$499,849 project sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and
704 the Office for Naval Research (ONR) to develop a model for the next generation power network using
705 a distributed concept based on scalable coordination by an *Intelligent Power Router* (IPR). Our goal
706 was to show that by distributing network intelligence and control functions using the IPR, we will be
707 capable of achieving improved survivability, security, reliability, and re-configurability. Our
708 approach builds on our knowledge from power engineering, systems, control, distributed computing,
709 and computer networks.

710

711 He has served as Consultant on renewable energy, energy efficiency and electric grid performance
712 and operation to Puerto Rico's Government agencies, municipalities, private developers and
713 consulting firms in and outside Puerto Rico. He has also served as expert witness in civil court
714 cases involving electric hazard, shock or electrocution.

715

716 He is author or coauthor of over 50 refereed publications including two book chapters (see
717 complete list in the CV section). A licensed professional engineer in Puerto Rico since 1991 and
718 member of IEEE he has organized local and international conferences such as the Tenth
719 International Conference on Probabilistic Methods Applied to Power Systems (PMAPS 2008) in
720 Rincón, Puerto Rico. PMAPS Conferences provide a regular forum for engineers and scientists
721 worldwide to interact around the common theme of power engineering decision problems under
722 uncertainty.

723 Dr. Irizarry-Rivera has received several awards and honors: **Distinguished Engineer 2013** from
724 Puerto Rico's Professional Engineers Society (CIAPR) and **Distinguished Electrical Engineer 2005**
725 from the Electrical Engineering Institute of CIAPR in recognition of services rendered to the
726 profession and outstanding professional achievements in electrical engineering, the **2009**
727 **Distinguished Alumni Award** from UPRM Alumni Association, the **2004 Professional Progress in**
728 **Engineering Award** from Iowa State University, in recognition of outstanding professional progress
729 and personal development in engineering as evidenced by significant contributions to the theory and
730 practice of engineering, distinguished service rendered to the profession, appropriate community
731 service, and/or achievement in a leadership position and the 2003-2004 ECE **Outstanding Faculty**
732 **Award** from UPRM's School of Engineering.

733

734 In May 2012 he was elected, by the consumers, to the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rico
735 Electric Power Authority, in the first election of this kind in Puerto Rico, to represent the interests
736 of consumers. He was President of the Board's Audit Committee and an active member of the
737 Engineering and Infrastructure, Legal and Labor Affairs and Consumer's Affairs Committees. In
738 2013 Board Members elected him Vice President of the Board and he served in this capacity until
739 September 2014 when his term expired.

740

741 He is Member of the Board of Directors, in the Interest of Consumers, of PREPA Holdings, LLC, a
742 company registered in Delaware, whose sole owner is PREPA. PREPA Holdings owns PREPANET
743 a communications network infrastructure provider that uses an optical network platform in Puerto
744 Rico to provide wholesale telecommunication services.

745

746 Dr. Irizarry Rivera is being paid \$150 per hour for his services in this case.

747 **XII. Expert Witness CV**

748 Please refer to attached CV (**Exhibit 2**).